

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5916
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Ac-
3 cess Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. ELECTRONIC REQUEST OF CERTAIN RECORDS
5 MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-
6 ERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) ELECTRONIC RECORD REQUESTS.—Section 5702
8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
10 section (c); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(b)(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain
14 a secure, internet-based website for a claimant or a duly
15 authorized agent or representative of that claimant to sub-
16 mit an electronic request for such records.

1 “(2) The Secretary, upon receipt of a valid request
2 made through the website established under paragraph
3 (1), shall provide to the requestor—

4 “(A) not later than 10 days after receipt, con-
5 firmation of such receipt; and

6 “(B) not later than 120 days after receipt, such
7 records requested in the form selected by the re-
8 questor.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5702(a)
10 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
12 striking “in writing” and inserting “in writing, in-
13 cluding an electronic request submitted through the
14 website established under subsection (b),”;

15 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
16 end;

17 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
18 the end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (4) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(3) the format in which such copy is desired,
21 including whether in printed form or by
22 downloadable file.”.

23 (c) DEADLINE; ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC
24 WEBSITE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
25 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

1 shall establish the website required under section
2 5702(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
3 this Act, and, to the extent practicable, the Secretary shall
4 utilize existing online resources of the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs for the purposes of such establishment.

6 **SEC. 3. WARNINGS TO CLAIMANTS UNDER LAWS ADMINIS-**
7 **TERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS REGARDING CLAIM SHARKS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5901 of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
12 “Except”;

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(b) WARNINGS ABOUT POTENTIAL PREDATORY
16 PRACTICES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that, each
17 time a claimant under a law administered by the Secretary
18 logs in to a website of the Department, such website issues
19 to the claimant, in plain language—

20 “(A) a warning about individuals who seek to
21 act in violation of this chapter;

22 “(B) a link to an online tool of the Department
23 through which the claimant may report such an indi-
24 vidual;

1 “(C) a link to an online tool of the Department
2 through which the claimant may search for a recog-
3 nized agent, attorney, or other entity recognized by
4 the Secretary for the preparation, presentation, or
5 prosecution of any claim under laws administered by
6 the Secretary; and

7 “(D) a link to a website or an online search tool
8 of the Department providing final decisions on dis-
9 cipline of agents, attorneys, and entities, described
10 in subparagraph (C), by the Secretary for violations
11 of this chapter.

12 “(2) The Secretary shall provide all information
13 under paragraph (1) in the following languages:

14 “(A) English.

15 “(B) Spanish.

16 “(C) Tagalog.

17 “(D) The seven other languages most com-
18 monly spoken in the United States.”.

19 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs shall carry out subsection (b) of such section, as
21 added by subsection (a) of this section—

22 (1) after consulting with stakeholders (including
23 veterans service organizations recognized under sec-
24 tion 5902 of such title) regarding the wording of the
25 warning under such subsection; and

1 (2) not later than one year after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act.

